

The meeting of the European promoters of the Dominican Order of Justice, Peace, Creation took place from 24 to 28 June 2024 in the Dominican convent in Lisbon.

The friars participating were: Aniedi Okure (Santa Sabina), Javier Aguilera (Spain) Stephen Cummins (Ireland), Antoine de la Fayette (France) Günter Reitzel (Austria) Ivan Attard (Malta) Rui Manuel Gracioso das Neves (Portugal) Francis Amponsah (Netherlands) Alessandro Cortesi (Italy).

The meeting began on 24th June with papers by fr Aniedi Okure on "The Dominican Order and situations of war and conflict in the world" and by fr Ivan Attard on "The challenge of building peace in situations of violence and conflict".

There were also two zoom links on ongoing conflict situations in the Middle East in Gaza and Ukraine. Fr Jean Jacques Pérennès spoke on the causes of the Israel-Palestine conflict and offered an overview of the history and causes indicating the gravity of the current situation. Fr Petro Balogh – in connection zoom from Kiev - presented a report on the war situation in Ukraine and the work of the Dominicans to support the suffering of those affected by the war. A discussion among those present followed with questions and insights.

In the afternoon fr Stephen Cummins presented a reflection on our commitment to promoting Justice and Peace in the context of a new Church age, following the outline of the reflection proposed by Thomas Halik in his book *The Afternoon of Christianity*.

This was followed by a time of sharing in which each promoter was able to present the social and ecclesial reality of their region and some elements of their commitment.

In the afternoon there was also a meeting with some members, lay people and sisters of the Dominican Family of Portugal. They described the ecclesial reality of Portugal and the commitment of the Dominican Family.

On the morning of the second day, the group of promoters visited a concrete justice and peace project promoted by the Oblate Sisters in Lisbon. The coordinating nun presented the activity of welcoming and accompanying women living in prostitution.

The history of this project and the social intervention method of listening, meeting and supporting marginalised and exploited women was presented.

In the afternoon, the promoters met Rogerio Roque Amaro, professor of solidarity economy at the University of Lisbon. He presented an in-depth overview of Portugal's demographic and economic situation, with a focus on the phenomenon of migration and the country's political history. He pointed to the experience of 'community groups' as agents of social development and participation in peripheral districts of Lisbon and elsewhere.

The discussion led to a comparison of the social situation of various realities in Europe.

The evening was dedicated to a community discussion to write together two texts to be addressed to the communities of our Order, with a view to a commitment on the issues of justice and peace today. Attached are the two texts that were drafted at the community level and approved.

The third day of the meeting was dedicated to a visit to a tourist site in Lisbon, the Tower of Belem and the Monastery of St Jerome, and to a school promoted for many years by the Irish Dominican sisters in Lisbon.

In the afternoon, there was a presentation of the MOSAIKO project, concerning the defence of human rights in Angola, by zoom connection. The historical and social situation in Angola was

described, and the work animated by Dominicans in working with people to defend human rights.

In the evening, the meeting concluded with an evaluation proposed by the promoter general of Justice and Peace, Br Aniedi, and in the sharing of the communitarian verification of the work conducted together. Accepting Br Günter's proposal, it was decided that the next annual meeting could be held from 1 June to 5 June 2025 at the Dominican monastery in Vienna.

The daily moments of prayer were shared with the community of Lisbon Dominicans in an atmosphere of fraternity.

During these days we shared our effort and hope to live the commitment for justice and peace as an essential part of our apostolic life.

Alessandro Cortesi op - European coordinator JP  
29.06.2024